concessions like extension of zone of consideration to five times the number of vacancies in case suitable SC/ST candidates are not available within the normal zone of consideration, relaxation in marks / standards of evaluation, relaxation in upper age limit by five years where upper age limit prescribed for promotion does not exceed 50 years etc. Backlog / carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs / STs are treated as a separate and distinct group and are not subject to the ceiling of 50% on filling up of reserved vacancies. All the Ministries / Departments have been requested to carry out a review for early assessment of backlog vacancies in respect of SCs / STs and make concerted efforts to fill them up.

(c) The appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

SCs, STs and OBCs in higher Judicial echelons

4889. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the higher judicial level is inadequate;

(b) whether there are presently only 20 judges belonging to SC and ST, communities among a total of 610 High Court Judges; and

(c) if so, the obstacles coming in the way of giving more representation to SCs and STs in higher judicial echelons?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts are made under article 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

Setting up of Fast Track Courts

†4890. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to set-up Fast Track Courts

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

throughout the country for early disposal of the pending cases in the courts;

(b) if so, the total number thereof and by when, these courts were to be set-up;

(c) the total funds allocated for implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) the amount spent, out of the total allocated funds, till December, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended that 1734 Fast Track Courts be established in the country. Out of these, 1074 Fast Track Courts have already been established, of which 627 Fast Track Courts have started functioning.

(c) The total funds allocated for the implementation of Fast Track Courts is Rs. 502.90 crore.

(d) An amount of Rs. 168 crore had been released by the Ministry of Finance to the State Governments under this scheme, till December, 2001.

Changes in law of arrest and detention

4891. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Law Commission had sent recommendation for making changes in the law of arrest and detention for regulating the power of arrest without warrant vested in the police under section 41 Cr. P.C.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, these are likely to be accepted?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission in its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has, *inter alia*, recommended insertion of a new sub-section in section 41 of the Code. Further, the Law Commission